

Appl. No. 10/800,904
Amendment dated January 7, 2005
Response to Office Action of December 13, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action of December 13, 2004.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for alleged "obviousness" over German Patent No. 43 20 928 and/or German Offenlegungsschrift No. 199 58 800.

In response to the foregoing, the claims have been amended to change the transitional phrase from "consisting essentially of" to "consisting of". This then closes the claim to the inclusion of other unspecified elements, except for impurities normally associated therewith. See M.P.E.P. § 2111.03.

The specification has been amended where indicated to change the "consisting essentially of" language to "consisting of" so as to be consistent with the amended claims.

This change to the claim immediately distinguishes the presently-claimed invention from the cited references. The German patent reference specifically includes 0.5-5% gallium or germanium, and 0.5% zinc. The patented composition also includes 0.5-10% manganese. These elements are excluded from the scope of the present claims.

The Offenlegungsschrift discloses a white gold jewelry alloy composition including gold, silver and 1-15% iron. Hence, applicant's claim combination clearly distinguishes from this reference as well. There is no teaching in either reference of limiting the claimed composition to the specific ranges and percentages identified in applicant's claims. Accordingly, Applicant's claims are believed to distinguish patentably from the prior art.

This Amendment is believed to be fully-responsive to the Office Action of December 13,

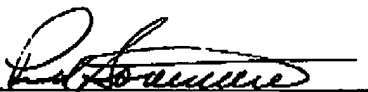
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2004, is believed to squarely address each and every ground for objection or rejection raised by the Examiner, and is further believed to materially advance the prosecution of this application toward immediate allowance.

Formal allowance of claims 1-2 in the light of this Amendment is, therefore, courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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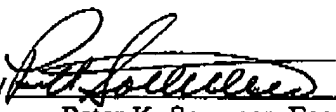
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